

We claim:

1. An escalator comprising a truss, a step-band with steps for the transportation of persons and/or objects, a balustrade on each side of the step-band held by a balustrade base and having a handrail, and a handrail-drive driving the handrails, characterized in that the handrail-drive includes means for engaging and driving the handrails on an outside of the handrail.

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2. The escalator according to claim 1, further characterized in that the handrail-drive a friction-wheel for driving each of the handrails by frictional engagement on the outside, and at least one press-on roller arranged on an inside of each handrail for pressing the handrail against the friction-wheel.

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3. The escalator according to claim 2, further characterized in that the handrail-drive includes a drive-wheel for driving the friction-wheel by frictional engagement.

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4. The escalator according to claim 2, further characterized in that the handrail-drive includes a drive-wheel for driving the friction-wheel by mechanical engagement.

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5. The escalator according to claim 3 or 4, further characterized in that the drive-wheel is arranged on a step chain-wheel.
6. The escalator according to claim 2, 3 or 4, further characterized in that the friction-wheels are connected by a shaft for transmitting torque therebetween.

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7. The escalator according to claim 2, 3 or 4, further characterized in that the friction-wheels are connected by a countershaft having further friction-wheels.

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8. The escalator according to claim 2, 3 or 4, further characterized in that one of the friction-wheels is driven by a belt of an escalator drive.